

07-16-'04 16:38 FROM-Lerner & Greenberg

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T-865 P02/13 U-296

Appl. No.: 10/614,569

Amdt. Dated July 16, 2004

Reply to Office action of April 16, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for providing a pressurized ~~fluid~~ cooling medium to be passed to a downstream component, which comprises the steps of:

providing a pressure accumulator partially filled with a ~~fluid~~ cooling medium;

heating the ~~fluid~~ cooling medium by supplying heat to an upper region of the pressure accumulator, and during a ~~standby mode~~ normal operation before the occurrence of an incident, evaporating some of the ~~fluid~~ cooling medium in the pressure accumulator for generating and maintaining a pressure, and for generating a vapor cushion.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, which comprises supplying the heat such that the vapor cushion is followed by a ~~hot-fluid hot-medium~~ region containing a hot ~~fluid~~ cooling medium formed from heating the ~~fluid~~ cooling medium, and the ~~hot-fluid hot-medium~~ region is in turn followed by a ~~cold-fluid cold-medium~~ region containing a cold

fluid cooling medium from the fluid cooling medium, a ratio of a volume of the hot-fluid hot-medium region to a volume of the vapor cushion being approximately 2:1, the volume of the hot-hot-fluid hot-medium region and the volume of the vapor cushion forming approximately 10% - 30% of a volume of the pressure accumulator.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method according to claim 2, which comprises setting the volume of the hot-fluid hot-medium region and the volume of the vapor cushion to be 18% of the volume of the pressure accumulator.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method according to claim 2, which comprises setting an amount of the hot fluid medium to approximately correspond to an amount of the fluid cooling medium required by the downstream component.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method according to claim 2, which comprises reducing the pressure in the pressure accumulator during a passing on of the fluid cooling medium to the downstream component, resulting in a lowering of a fluid cooling medium level of the fluid cooling medium in the pressure accumulator, the pressure reduction occurring due to the hot fluid cooling medium and a vapor of the vapor cushion being cooled in a lower region of the pressure accumulator due

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to a releasing of heat to an insulating device disposed in the lower region.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, which comprises admixing a non-condensable gas with the fluid cooling medium.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, which comprises conducting the fluid cooling medium to a control rod drive of a reactor of a boiling-water nuclear power plant.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 1, which comprises conducting the fluid cooling medium as emergency cooling water to an emergency cooling system of a pressurized-water nuclear power plant.